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GOSSIP *Liz Smith*

Author Posner Faces Critics of JFK Book

When the dapper young author **Gerald Posner** sat down with me recently on **Barry Diller's** QVC for an interview about his book, "Case Closed," the audience response to him was so great that he sold 1,500 copies in about 10 minutes.

I knew that, since Posner's **JFK** work was published, he has undergone quite an ordeal. The many assassination buffs who make a living or a hobby out of promoting various conspiracy theories have no use for this writer. Posner is now telling us that **Lee Harvey Oswald** was definitely JFK's only killer and that there was no conspiracy. ("Case Closed" has been on the New York Times best-seller list for the past five weeks.)

Posner said he's had threats and ominous telephone calls. The "conspiracy people" tried to get him canceled or not booked on numerous TV shows. Film maker **Oliver Stone** even protested to Posner's editor, **Harry Evans** of Random House, asking how the company could publish such a book.

Now — on November 20 — there'll be a reunion of the many journalists who were in Dallas on the day of JFK's murder and also the many who rushed there to cover the tragedy. Then, on November 23, the Assassination Archives & Research Center in Dallas will hold a symposium. Posner will speak despite great opposition. The Archives, which uses an online computer network to keep conspiracy advocates up to date, has already issued a 12-inch book and advisory against Posner.

Random House is a little worried about seeing its author go into the lion's den. But Posner is a brave guy, convinced and convincing in his thesis that Oswald was a socio-psychopath, a disgruntled misfit, a loner, who couldn't get along with anyone and had threatened to kill **Dwight Eisenhower**, tried to kill conservative General **Edwin Walker** and then *did* kill John F. Kennedy. He had no ideology, really, just a desire to get even and be noticed.

Posner says the Assassination Archives people always argued that the federal government was not forthcoming with information and investigations into Kennedy's death. They argued for more access, more freedom and the right to be heard. Now Posner wants the same courtesy from the conspiracy theorists.